

7, recalled trying to contact Babbitt by telephone around May 10, 1995. Obey recalls being unhappy about not being able to talk to Babbitt. He had a vague recollection of being put in touch with someone within the secretariat, but he could not recall who it was or what he said to that person. Obey believed he probably said something to the effect that he opposed the Hudson application, and that the only people who supported it were the dog track owners and the three applicant tribes.

Moreover, an Oberstar staffer stated that she was in an automobile in Minnesota with the Congressman some time between May 1994 and May 1995 when he called Babbitt on a cellular phone to discuss the Hudson matter. She recalls that the conversation was highly political in nature: Oberstar told Babbitt that the Minnesota Democratic delegation opposed the application, and he made clear that the application proponents were not political friends of the Democrats. Oberstar also expressed his concerns about the economic impact on Minnesota that might result from a Hudson casino. The staffer did not think that the call to Babbitt was impromptu; rather, she knew that the call had been pre-arranged for that day. After the telephone call, Oberstar did not provide her with any details about what Babbitt had said, nor did they talk about the substance of the Hudson application. Oberstar denies that such a telephone call ever took place, and states unequivocally that he never called Babbitt on the Hudson matter. Babbitt said he did not recall receiving a call from Oberstar about Hudson.¹⁹⁵

On April 27, 1995, Gerry Sikorski – a former member of Congress and a lawyer and lobbyist for the Mille Lacs – had separate meetings about Hudson with Reps. Oberstar and Sabo.

¹⁹⁵In this time period, neither the Secretary nor his special assistant kept records of calls placed or scheduled.